CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

identifying a binary file generated by a source application to be emailed to one or more designated recipients;

generating one or more user interface displays in the form of a self-contained representation based at least in part upon one or more state-based transition specifications to enable platform independent viewing of content from said binary file by said one or more recipients; and

transmitting said representation to said one or more designated recipients in association with at least one email message.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said state-based transition specifications specify a group of one or more user interface displays eligible to be rendered on behalf of said one or more recipients, based at least in part upon user input received from said one or more recipients.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein said user interface displays transition from a first state to a second state based upon said received user input.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

encoding said representation using at least one of a MIME protocol, a Uuencode protocol, and a BinHex protocol.

5.   The method of claim 1, where said source application or copy of said source application need not be accessed by said one or more designated recipients in order for said attachment to be viewed by said one or more designated recipients.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein each of said set of one or more state-based user interface displays comprises one or more state-based display cells each associated with a portion of said content.

7.   In a first computing device, a method comprising:

identifying a source application format for an identified binary file;

determining if said identified source application format is a member of a group of one or more supported formats; and

capturing a set of one or more user interface displays, based at least in part upon one or more state-based transition specifications, to generate a self-contained representation of said binary file for viewing by a designated recipient, if said identified format is determined to be a supported format.

8.   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

encoding said one or more user interface displays in association with an email message; and

transmitting said email message to said designated recipient to be rendered as one or more of said user interface displays in accordance with said state-based transition specifications in response to received user input.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said binary file represents at least one of a word processing document and a spreadsheet document.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said identified file format is determined based upon a filename extension associated with said binary file.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein capturing further comprises:

accessing a set of state transition specifications corresponding to said identified source application format;

launching a locally accessible version of an application associated with said source application format;

simulating user input to said application based at least in part upon said set of state transition specifications; and

storing output from said application in response to said received user input.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said user interface displays transition from a first state to a second state based upon said received user input.

13.   The method of claim 12, wherein said user interface displays further transition from said second state back to said first state or from said second state to one of a plurality of additional states based upon received user input.

14.   The method of claim 7, wherein each of said set of one or more state-based user interface displays comprises one or more state-based display cells.

15.   A method comprising:

receiving an email message including an associated first attachment of a first attachment type;

determining if said first attachment type is a member of a group of one or more supported source applications;

referencing a set of one or more state-based transition specifications based upon said first attachment type if it is determined said first attachment type is a member of said group of one or more supported source applications;

launching a locally accessible version of said source application associated with said first application type;

simulating one or more user input signals based upon said one or more state-based transition specifications; and

capturing a first set of user interface displays in response to said one or more user input signals based at least in part upon said one or more state-based transition specifications so as to generate a non-proprietary representation of said first attachment.

16.   The method of claim 15, further comprising:

encoding said non-proprietary representation of said first attachment;

associating said representation with said email message in the form a second

attachment; and

transmitting said email message including said second attachment to a

designated recipient.

17.   The method of claim 16, wherein said non-proprietary representation is encoded

with the MIME protocol.

18.   The method of claim 15, wherein said first attachment type comprises a

proprietary format.

19.   The method of claim 15, wherein said plurality of user interface displays further

comprise a plurality of display cells.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein each of said plurality of display cells displays a

portion of one or more of said plurality of user interface displays based at least in part

upon said state-based transition specifications

21.   An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions

designed to

identify a binary file generated by a source application to be emailed to

one or more designated recipients,

generate one or more user interface displays in the form of a self-

contained representation based at least in part upon one or more state-based

transition specifications to enable platform independent viewing of content from

said binary file by said one or more recipients, and

transmit said representation to said one or more designated recipients in

association with at least one email message; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the

programming instructions.

22.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said state-based transition specifications

specify a group of one or more user interface displays eligible to be rendered on behalf

of said one or more recipients, based at least in part upon user input received from said

one or more recipients.

23.   The apparatus of claim 22, wherein said user interface displays transition from a

first state to a second state based upon said received user input.

24.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to encode said representation using at least one of a MIME protocol, a Uuencode protocol, and a BinHex protocol.

25.   The apparatus of claim 21, where said source application or copy of said source application need not be accessed by said one or more designated recipients in order for said attachment to be viewed by said one or more designated recipients.

26.   The apparatus of claim 21, wherein each of said set of one or more state-based user interface displays comprises one or more state-based display cells each associated with a portion of said content.

27.   An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions designed to

identify a source application format for an identified binary file;

determine if said identified source application format is a member of a group of one or more supported formats,

capture a set of one or more user interface displays, based at least in part upon one or more state-based transition specifications, to generate a self-contained representation of said binary file for viewing by a designated recipient, if said identified format is determined to be a supported format; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

28.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to

encode said one or more user interface displays in association with an email message; and

transmit said email message to said designated recipient to be rendered as one or more of said user interface displays in accordance with said state-based transition specifications in response to received user input.

29.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said binary file represents at least one of a word processing document and a spreadsheet document.

30.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said identified file format is determined based upon a filename extension associated with said binary file.

31.   The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to

access a set of state transition specifications corresponding to said identified source application format;

launch a locally accessible version of an application associated with said source application format;

simulate user input to said application based at least in part upon said set of state transition specifications; and

store output from said application in response to said received user input.

32. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said user interface displays transition from a first state to a second state based upon said received user input.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein said user interface displays further transition from said second state back to said first state or from said second state to one of a plurality of additional states based upon received user input.

34. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein each of said set of one or more state-based user interface displays comprises one or more state-based display cells.

35. An apparatus comprising:

a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming instructions designed to

receive an email message including an associated first attachment of a first attachment type,

determine if said first attachment type is a member of a group of one or more supported source applications,

reference a set of one or more state-based transition specifications based upon said first attachment type if it is determined said first attachment type is a member of said group of one or more supported source applications,

launch a locally accessible version of said source application associated with said first application type,

simulate one or more user input signals based upon said one or more state-based transition specifications, and

capture a first set of user interface displays in response to said one or more user input signals based at least in part upon said one or more state-based transition specifications so as to generate a non-proprietary representation of said first attachment; and

at least one processor coupled to the storage medium to execute the programming instructions.

36.   The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the programming instructions are further designed to

encode said non-proprietary representation of said first attachment;

associating said representation with said email message in the form a second attachment; and

transmit said email message including said second attachment to a designated recipient.

37.   The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said non-proprietary representation is encoded with the MIME protocol.

38.   The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said first attachment type comprises a proprietary format.

39.   The apparatus of claim 35, wherein said plurality of user interface displays further comprise a plurality of display cells.

40.   The apparatus of claim 39, wherein each of said plurality of display cells displays a portion of one or more of said plurality of user interface displays based at least in part upon said state-based transition specifications.